

Poli Players Give Second Premiere in Stock History

"In Walked Jimmy" Is Innocuous Little Comedy, the Dramatic Interest of Which Is Snowed Under by Platitudes—A. H. Van Buren Saves the Dominating Character from Tedium by Skillful Acting.

By JULIA CHANDLER.

When Jimmy walked into the defunct first act, Mrs. Ronnie H. Jaffa's new comedy, which had its premiere at Poli's last evening, the story picked up its ears; a tottering business sprang into instant prosperity. A would-be suicide found life quite worth the living; every employee in the Cinderella company received a hyperdermic of good cheer, and a capacity audience reflected at least the spirit of the play.

You see it was this way: John Trellawney, proprietor of the Cinderella Soft Sole Baby Shoe Company (as much of a tongue twister as the "Slater Sush" song, eh?), on a diamond business trip, found his wife and two young sons in the living; every employee in the Cinderella company received a hyperdermic of good cheer, and a capacity audience reflected at least the spirit of the play.

He therefore discharged the small kit and caboodle of employees and with the sympathy of a crowd of rampaging down a single window pane, slowly lifted the deadly thing to his temple, when—

In walked Jimmy. The program said he would, and we had scented the psychological moment. "Wait a minute," begged the genial voice from the doorway.

J. T. Trellawney then looked into the smiling eyes of his visitor and went on obeying orders until the stranger who came with the springtime—all spic and span, and smiling—transformed the business trip into the business of the fastest express stopped at the town where prospered the Cinderella factory, and trainmen megaphoned the passengers information concerning the towering monument of industry. (The species of railroad employees must be different out in California where Mrs. Jaffa lives).

In the second act Jimmy extended his smile until it encompassed so many folk needing sunshine shed on the routine of life that we lost all count of them, but we are quite willing to accept the statement of the program that "In Walked Jimmy" is the heart of those both on the stage and off—a smile is an infectious thing, and it does its work in Mrs. Jaffa's play which you have doubtless already gathered embodies the New Thought idea, proving the contention that one has but to think success, talk success, and live success in order to have success. That was Jimmy's religion and he got away with it in a manner so reminiscent of "It Pays to Advertise" that one might have believed that one was witnessing the latter (with baby shoes substituted for soap) were it not that the Rot Cooper Magnus farce-comedy is a delightfully clever piece, while Mrs. Jaffa's new comedy is so saturated with platitudes, so weighted down with bromides, that dramatic interest is snowed under.

But to get back to the story. Jimmy's refusal to acknowledge a surname created some suspicion, and when he was responsible for suspicion being directed toward him for a train robbery which occurred upon the night of his arrival at the hotel, he was in trouble, out again, and all by the magic of that same smile which won for him the heart of the girl he loved, serving as a stimulant to the lagging faith of all the folk he met along the way. Beautiful thought, of course, but by no means of means is it sustained by Mrs. Jaffa's play, which contradicts its own argument time without number. The hero, in his embodiment of his religion, is repudiated at the first suspicion against him by the very folk in whom his gospel is supposed to have created faith. Even the girl who loves him is insufficiently impressed to stand out bravely and loyally for him when appearances are against him.

But, as bromide, illogical, inconsequential as is "In Walked Jimmy," when viewed from every standpoint of purposeful argument and dramatic construction, the Poli Players gave to the initial performance of the piece last evening so much of sympathy and spirit that the audience was persuaded into good nature.

In the hands of the average actor Jimmy would be but the automatic pronouncer of Mrs. Jaffa's three hours and a half of platitudes, but A. H. Van Buren injects into his thankless creation the rare grace of his delightful comedy method, and brings to his visualization a sufficient touch of earnestness to relieve



A. H. VAN BUREN, Poli's.

the picture of that monotony into which the characterization would inevitably sink in the hands of a less capable player.

Supporting Mr. Van Buren in his skillful portrayal of the super-angine hero, the Poli Players gave a smooth performance last evening. Miss Rittenhouse impersonating Kitty Blake, Trellawney's sweetest, and Howard Lindsey as the miserly old miser, were the only two who were not completely submerged by the ill-fated thing that only went out seemed by the long and lonely road.

Nobody wanted Cinderella Soft Sole Shoes. The one rascally salesman insisted it was because mothers are coming more and more to believe in sugar shoes and not in the old-fashioned tiny feet of tottering toddlers. Nobody cared whether he was correct or otherwise. The fact remained that the business was going to the dogs, and John Trellawney could see the way out only along the shiny barrel of his revolver.

He therefore discharged the small kit and caboodle of employees and with the sympathy of a crowd of rampaging down a single window pane, slowly lifted the deadly thing to his temple, when—

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The wife, whose acquaintance Beverly Dinwiddie makes over the telephone, accepts her husband's return from his military service. Beverly finally succeeds in reconciling the estranged couple, who are really in love with each other all the while. She also succeeds in winning the love of her husband.

Miss Anglin's performance of Beverly was a historic delight. Evidently Americans like broad comedy best, for Miss Anglin was most successful in the broader lines of the character. Amusing she was, however, in the best way from beginning to end, for she knew exactly what she was doing, and did it thoroughly and heartily. She is a player of great discretion, high ambition and achievement, and abundant talent.

There are but six characters in the comedy. Mrs. Charles G. Craig as Mrs. Randolph—one of the few opportunities, drew an interesting and comical picture. Donald Cameron, of the four male characters, certainly found the widest field to ramble through, and he just as certainly gave the complete and most satisfactory delineation as Watt Dinwiddie, the poor lawyer cousin. Howard Lindsey contributed a good short "bit" as Mr. J. K. Lunt, the young millionaire husband, and Margery Cutting is transformed from a pleasure-loving creature to a real wife. As for Miss Anglin, we can say that she has beautiful red hair.

The performance was a benefit for the Georgetown University Hospital, and "Hilltop" society was out in force. The theater was very prettily decorated with flowers and national colors, and Miss Anglin was presented with a beautiful floral offering.

Keith's—Vaudeville.

The lively and satisfying program at Keith's this week shines at the top of the vaudeville bill. Lillian Russell, who gives a number of songs and a little personal talk marked by the good sense and humor that have always been characteristic of her, is the star of the evening. Her performance is a masterpiece of the art, and she is the only one who is not completely submerged by the ill-fated thing that only went out seemed by the long and lonely road.

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AEROPLANE USED TO TORPEDO TURK VESSEL

Reported Feat of British Aviator Suggests New Way to Defend Coasts of United States.

A high official of the American navy has learned, through a private letter from a friend in Europe, of the successful utilization of an aeroplane in the torpedoing of a Turkish warship in the Sea of Marmora. This letter, a portion of which was made public here yesterday, suggests the possibility of the development of an adequate number of torpedo-carrying aeroplanes to defend the coasts of the United States, a project now under consideration by Navy Department experts.

The incident referred to occurred several months ago. It is described thus: "A friend of mine, for sometime a guest on the British fleet in the Aegean, told me that a British hydro-aeroplane, carrying a torpedo between pontoons, flew over the Gallipoli Peninsula and alighted in the Sea of Marmora, heading for a Turkish transport. It released its torpedo and sank the transport."

In the light of this disclosure the opinion was expressed today that the United States, in the face of a sudden threat of invasion, could better prepare for defense by the hasty manufacture of a large number of torpedo-carrying hydro-aeroplanes than in any other way.

A Navy Department expert declared it would be practicable to turn out a sufficient number of hydro-aeroplanes to defend both coasts within six months. This is the only instrumentality of naval defense which could be produced so rapidly said this expert.

Experts pointed out further that as the torpedo-carrying aeroplane is the newest instrumentality of naval warfare, no method has been devised for meeting its attack.

G. P. O. EMPLOYEES FAVORED.

Comptroller's Ruling Gives Them Pay for Holidays When on Leave. Comptroller of the Treasury W. W. Warwick yesterday decided that employees of the Government Printing Office on leave without pay are entitled to pay for all holidays that occur during their leave of absence, the same as employees on duty or on leave of absence with pay. His decision reverses that of the auditor of the State and other departments.

The rules of the civil service shop allow an employee to take sixty days leave of absence without pay, provided the work of the office permits. Up to this time, however, employees on such leave have not been paid for holidays occurring during their leave of absence.

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THE NEW MEN'S SHOP OPEN UNTIL 1 P. M.

There are just four hours today—9 a. m. to 1 p. m.—to save the difference between \$9.75 and \$14.50 and up.

SUITS, \$9.75

Were \$14.50 and Up. The "Coming" Shop has to avoid the weaknesses of the "Going" Shops. Thus this present Clearing Sale of this season's clothing—to eliminate the possibility of "relics" later.

The Palais Royal A. LISNER

MISS BOARDMAN LECTURES.

Talks to Friends School Students on Work of Red Cross.

Miss Mabel Boardman, chairman of the National Red Cross organization, spoke before the students and friends of the Friends' School yesterday afternoon on the work of the Red Cross. Miss Boardman told of the origin of the movement in 1864 among the Italian women and of the formation of the Red Cross organization in Switzerland.

The Red Cross is, Miss Boardman said, the greatest factor in the world for peace, not only in war, but in earthquake, flood, forest fire and famine—wherever men are suffering—the Red Cross extends its hand. Yet in 1914 among the Italian women, as compared with Germany's million members and Japan's 1,500,000.

Of an average ten wage-earners in any industry east of the Rocky Mountains, nine of them earn less than \$1,000 a year.

Mme. FRANCES ALDA

Treasure Island

FRANCES STARR

B. F. KEITH'S

LILLIAN RUSSELL

IRENE FRANKLIN

POLI'S

The Portmanteau Theater

NEW WILLARD BALLROOM

LOEW'S COLUMBIA

BLANCHE SWEET IN THE BLACKLIST

GAITEY

The Hudford One-Ton Chassis IS FORD

Efficiency and Economy Properly Harnessed NO CHAINS TO WEAR OUT.



UP-TO-DATE SHAFT DRIVE. A SEVEN-TO-ONE GEAR GIVES AM